

State Senator

Maida Coleman

CAPITOL REPORT

District 5

Dear Friends,

The 2005 legislative session brought some new and important changes to our district. I accomplished the not-so-easy feat of passing significant legislation that not only centers on the needs of the St. Louis community, but also benefits the entire state. Although a handful of passed legislation was insightful and far-reaching, such as the measures cracking down on methamphetamine production and making the back-to-school sales tax holiday an annual August event, there were some harmful effects from the 2005 General Assembly as well.

By far, most detrimental to the State of Missouri is a bill drastically altering the Medicaid system. In my role as minority floor leader, I directed my St. Louis colleagues in our fight against these cruel cuts, which take away health insurance for 100,000 Missourians and reduce health-care access for more than 300,000 additional citizens. I assigned Senators Pat Dougherty and Rita Heard Days the daunting task of leading this charge, and our caucus fought very hard to avoid these cuts.

Senators Dougherty, Tim Green and Joan Bray were my appointees to the Senate Appropriations Committee. They had the challenge of dealing with the state's \$19.2-billion budget and bringing the recommendations to the floor of the Senate for debate once the budget was passed out of committee. While \$19 billion seems like a lot of money to some, remember that state money pays for our public schools, health services, state universities, roads, social services, economic development, courts and prisons—to name just a few necessary expenditures. The budget was balanced, unfortunately, in ways that some of my colleagues and I did not support.

We were able, however, to pass new laws that will aid military families, which were of particular interest to St. Louis Senator Harry Kennedy. We also passed legislation to reduce lead poisoning and make the replacement of stolen license tags much easier. St. Louis schools benefited under various pieces of legislation, and sexual misconduct laws were also tightened.

After the legislative session ended, I visited many constituents to explain how the newly passed laws will affect them. I will continue to seek input on issues that need to be addressed and will continue my work on improving public education, dealing with prison overpopulation and addressing public-housing needs. Please contact me about issues that are important to you or notify me of meetings, events and activities that you would like my staff or me to attend. I appreciate the trust you put in me and the opportunity I have to serve you.

Sincerely,



Maida Coleman
Senate Minority Floor Leader



Sen. Coleman Receives Third *St. Louis Business Journal* Legislative Award For Outstanding Leadership

For the third consecutive year, Sen. Coleman was honored by the *St. Louis Business Journal* for her steadfast efforts to advance the business interests of Missourians.

This year she was additionally recognized for her exceptional leadership as the Senate minority floor leader. The publication applauded Sen. Coleman for her reputation as a levelheaded and approachable legislator both on and off the Senate floor. She was elected in 2002 and has since been a strong advocate for the best interests of the city of St. Louis.

Ten of the 33 bills she introduced in 2005 were signed by the governor. Some of the legislation she backed provided for the replacement of stolen license plate tags, increased salaries for St. Louis police officers, fixed lead abatement laws and renamed Harris-Stowe State College as Harris-Stowe State University.



Sen. Coleman reviews a bill with Sen. Chuck Graham on the Senate floor.

Lead Abatement Moves Forward

One of Sen. Coleman's most important bills signed into law in 2005 made huge advancements for the abatement of lead poisoning in St. Louis.

The new law stiffens the requirements of

property owners, lead inspectors, risk assessors, lead abatement supervisors, lead abatement workers, project designers, and lead abatement contractors with regard to lead-paint removal.

The bill also creates a \$1 checkoff on the Missouri income tax return for the Childhood Lead Testing Fund.

In addition, the measure requires the Department of Health and Senior Services to provide on its Web site educational materials explaining the rights and responsibilities of the property owners, tenants, lead inspectors, risk assessors, and lead abatement contractors.

Because of Sen. Coleman's strong advocacy for combating lead poisoning, she was chosen to be a keynote speaker at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference on Eliminating Childhood Lead Poisoning and Combating Indoor Environmental Hazards in December 2005.

Sen. Coleman says her efforts to make living environments safer for Missourians will continue throughout the 2006 legislative session.



Sen. Coleman discusses legislative issues with Sen. Frank Barnitz of Lake Spring.

Legislative Success

Bills sponsored by Sen. Coleman that the governor signed...

- require, among other things, that all of the St. Louis school district's employee appointments and promotions will be merit-based rather than just teaching appointments.

- save the St. Louis School District money for special elections by allowing the two St. Louis City school board members whose terms expire in April 2010 to serve until November 2010 when their successors are elected. Thereafter, the election date for those seats shall be the general election date in November, rather than the municipal election date in April.

- remove school principals from certain sections of the Metropolitan school district's teacher-tenure statute.

- encourage a mandated high school course in personal finance economics.
- authorize the governor to convey the Midtown Habilitation Center to St. Louis University.
- improve lead abatement laws. (see page 2)
- change the name of Harris-Stowe State College to Harris-Stowe State University.
- allow for two sets of stolen license plate tabs per year to be replaced at no cost.
- require the Department of Health and Senior Services to offer a vaccination program for first responders who may be exposed to infectious diseases when deployed to disaster locations as a result of a bioterrorism event.
- increase the maximum amount of compensation payable to St. Louis police officers.



Surrounded by fellow lawmakers, Minority Floor Leader Coleman addresses the media on the last day of the 2005 legislative session.

The Outlook for St. Louis Schools

The Legislature passed a new school foundation formula during the 2005 session, but it is still too early to tell how St. Louis public schools will ultimately fare under the plan.

According to the legislation as it is written, every district will receive at least \$6,117 per student each year with extra money given for above-average numbers of special education, limited-English and poor students.

Among other things, all Missouri teacher's minimum salaries will be raised from \$18,000 to \$25,000 for those with bachelor's degrees and from \$24,000 to \$33,000 for those with master's degrees. This change takes effect July of 2006.

If the formula is fully funded, St. Louis schools would see an increase of about \$32 million per year. However, the plan will cost the state about \$940 million more over the next seven years, and there is no indication yet where the extra money will be found.

The sponsors of the bill say they are counting on state revenue growth of 3.5 to 4 percent with possible extra income coming from gaming lottery expansion.

This is no sure source of funds, though, which means we have no sure idea how our public schools will be affected.



Sen. Coleman's 2006 Legislative Priorities

One of my main goals in 2006 will be to advance legislation eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for people convicted of nonviolent felonies. Too many of our prisons are overflowing with nonviolent offenders. I think a felon should serve the sentence imposed by the judge, but the Board of Probation and Parole should have discretion to review the sentence and possibly release the offender before the completion of the sentence. Offenders sentenced under the mandatory minimum sentencing statutes before August 28, 2005, would have their sentences reviewed by the board. The board will have discretion to release them before the end of his or her sentence.

I will also move forward with legislation...

- creating a tuition grant program for the children of deceased military family members.
- requiring a high school class on personal finance economics.
- allowing non-certified employees of the school district to be removed if the employee is convicted of a state or federal crime or if the employee is incompetent.
- exempting all pensions provided as a result of service in the armed forces of the United States from state income tax.
- expanding the crime of first degree property damage to include knowingly damaging a motor vehicle while breaking into the vehicle for the purpose of stealing.
- extending powers to civilian review boards that investigate allegations of misconduct by local law enforcement officers.
- requiring that any product containing a radio frequency identification tag or bar code shall have a label disclosing that information to consumers.
- modifying various provisions relating to delinquent child support payments.
- setting higher emergency-care standards for rape victims.
- addressing indoor air quality issues.
- requiring health benefit plans to provide coverage for diagnostic testing and health-care services for chronic kidney disease patients.



Sen. Coleman discusses legislative action with Sens. Patrick Dougherty.

Sen. Coleman's Boards/Committees/Commissions:

Administration; Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources; Financial and Governmental Organization and Elections; Gubernatorial Appointments; Ways and Means; Joint Committee on Corrections; Joint Committee on Education; Joint Committee on Governmental Accountability; Joint Committee on Public Employee Retirement; Missouri Ethanol and Other Renewable Fuel Sources Commission; Missouri Women's Council; Children's Trust Fund Board; Missouri Tourism Commission



Sen. Coleman is one of six female legislators in the Missouri Senate. From left to right: Sens. Yvonne S. Wilson, Luann Ridgeway, Maida Coleman, Joan Bray, Rita Heard Days and Norma Champion.

Life Just Got Easier

One of the major complaints I heard from constituents was that replacing stolen license plate tags was a hassle and too costly.

Under the old law, when license plate tags were stolen, the state only issued one set of free replacements. The bill I successfully advanced during the 2005 session allows a person replacing stolen license plate tabs to receive two sets of two license plate tabs a year at no cost.

In addition, a citation cannot be issued for missing license plate tags if the driver indicates to law enforcement officials that the tags have been stolen and a check of the person's motor vehicle registration record reveals that the vehicle is properly registered.

Court costs will also be waived in cases where a citation has been improperly issued.



Sen. Coleman confers with Sens. Dan Clemens, standing, and John Griesheimer.

Sen. Coleman Gets Involved in Earthquake Preparedness

The tragedies of the Asian tsunami and hurricanes Katrina and Rita have emphasized the need for more emergency preparation at the state and local levels. Because the New Madrid fault line runs right through eastern Missouri, and Sen. Coleman herself is from Sikeston, her interest in natural disaster preparedness runs deep.

To learn more about how to make Missouri safer from earthquakes, Sen. Coleman participated in a three-day field

trip put on by the U.S. Geological Survey through the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program. During the excursion, she met with geologists, geophysicists and earthquake engineers to discuss how to prevent the destruction of people, property and commerce in the event of an earthquake. Sen. Coleman said that when she returned home, she had a better grasp of earthquake risk factors and the resources available to prepare for and manage the aftermath of a possible natural disaster.

Gubernatorial Appointments

The General Assembly may create a board or commission through statute, or the governor may create a commission or task force through an executive order. Persons interested in serving in these areas may apply through their legislator, or they may send a resume directly to the governor’s office.

Following are gubernatorial appointees sponsored by Sen. Coleman in 2005:



Angeletta McCormick Franks and her husband at her appointment to the Board of Election Commissioners for St. Louis City.



Luther Rollins at his appointment to the Harris-Stowe State University Board of Regents, with President Dr. Henry Givens (standing).



Christopher Goodson and his wife at his appointment to the St. Louis City Board of Police Commissioners.



Darryl T. Jones at his appointment to the Missouri Gaming Commission.



Rodney J. Boyd at his appointment to the Lincoln University Board of Curators, with President Dr. Carolyn Mahoney (standing).



Personal *Reflections*



I enjoy the opportunity to share with you the highlights of the past year and legislative session. Writing this page gives me the ability to share with you my personal thoughts on matters that aren't always centered on legislation.

There is not much I hold above opening kids' eyes to new and different environments. Growing up as the eldest of eight in Sikeston, it was important to me to sometimes "escape" from the cooking, cleaning and babysitting. I usually got lost in books (which explains my wanderlust). In last year's personal reflections I talked about the five children I sent deer hunting through Safari Club International. Inspired by the positive experience, I chose to sponsor several more youth educational outings in 2005.

The first of four trips was to the William J. Clinton Presidential Library in Little Rock, Arkansas. I led a group of nine that spent three days traveling and exploring the library and the city. The children, ages 8 to 12, were required to take quizzes after the tours and write book reports for their respective teachers. We even managed to tour a courthouse where the kids were allowed to try on a judge's robe. Having an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet at the hotel and ordering in pizza was a big hit also.

In July, the Missouri Legislative Black Caucus held its annual conference at Tan-Tar-A Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks. In addition to participating in workshops and learning about what goes on at conferences, the children were able to enjoy the sun and water. I also took a group of girls to Chicago to see a "big" city. Touring the Chicago Tribune building, the Field Museum and shopping along the Magnificent Mile made it an amazing trip. It's important to me that youth know that the world is big and available to them. Each time I sponsor a trip with youth, I feel I'm providing them with the freedom to make choices in their lives. Additionally, many of these children have never eaten in a sit-down restaurant or stayed in a hotel. It's always an eye-opening experience.

As a member of the Missouri Tourism Commission and Agriculture, Conservation, Parks and Natural Resources Committee, I helped take 500 youths from St. Louis, Kansas City and Jefferson City to the Missouri State Fair held each August in Sedalia. For the first time, an "Urban Agriculture Day" was held. Children participating in programs through the Carr Square Tenant Management Corporation and the Human Development Corporation of St. Louis spent the day learning about animals, watching chicks hatch, seeing pigs and cows and viewing the blue-ribbon ham. It was enjoyable for all.

Next year I plan to take a train to Springfield, Illinois, to visit the state Capitol and explore the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. If you have children in the 8 to 12 year-old age range, please contact my office so that we can get participation information to you.

My most recent travels took me overseas, and this time I was accompanied by adults. To my utter delight, because of my advocacy in economic development and agriculture, I was chosen to travel to both Japan and Taiwan because of relationships Missouri has with these countries. Missouri belongs to the Midwest U.S.—Japan Association. I was able to take part in meetings centered on fostering continued relationships with the two countries through trade. The Taiwan trip (see page 11) dealt with the Midwest's agriculture contributions to that country.

I look forward to my future adventures. Take care and let me know if I can be of assistance to you.

All my best,



2005 in Photos



Sen. Coleman escorts Sen. Frank Barnitz to his special election induction ceremony.



Sen. Coleman was instrumental in renaming Harris-Stowe State College to Harris-Stowe State University. For her ongoing efforts, the university designated her a “Golden Palm Laureate.”



Sen. Coleman and Rep. Robin Wright Jones present world-renowned boxing promoter Don King with a resolution acknowledging his support of the St. Louis tourism and entertainment industry. (Photo courtesy of William Greenblatt.)

Sen. Coleman joins fellow lawmakers Sens. Patrick Dougherty (left) and Tim Green (right) as they meet with the media to discuss legislative issues.



As Minority Floor Leader, Sen. Coleman works closely with Senate President Pro Tem Michael R. Gibbons to ensure her party's priorities are represented.

Sen. Coleman stands to address the president of the Senate during floor debate in the Senate chamber.



Steer Clear of the **DMV Blues**

It's aggravating to wait in line for an hour to get license plates or a driver's license, only to find out once it's your turn that you're missing the necessary documents.



Use these checklists so you don't leave the license bureau frustrated and empty-handed.

For NEW license plates, you need:

- ☐ The **Certificate of Title** (signed over to you) OR the **Manufacturer's Statement of Origin (MSO)**.
- ☐ Signed **application for Missouri Title and License (DOR-108)**.
- ☐ An original **paid personal property tax receipt OR statement of non-assessment** for the previous year for a one-year registration (two-year registration requires previous two years).
- ☐ **Proof of a safety inspection** not more than 60 days old (unless you have an MSO).
- ☐ **Proof of insurance.**
- ☐ **Payment.**

For more info, call 573-751-4509 or visit:
www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/motorv/buying.htm#new

To RENEW your license plates, you need:

- ☐ A signed **Renewal Application (DOR-289)**, or **application for license (DOR-184)**.
- ☐ A **safety inspection** not more than 60 days old.
- ☐ An original **paid personal property tax receipt OR statement of non-assessment** for the previous year for a one-year registration (two-year registration requires previous two years).
- ☐ **Current insurance identification card.**
- ☐ **Payment.**

For online plate renewal, visit:
www.plates.mo.gov

For more info, call 573-751-4509 or visit:
www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/motorv/renewing.htm

For a U.S. Citizen Driver's License, you will need:

- ☐ A **birth certificate** with an embossed or raised seal, a valid or expired **U.S. passport**, a **Certificate of Citizenship**, **Certificate of Naturalization**, or a **Certificate of Birth Abroad** (this is a onetime requirement for U.S. citizens).
- ☐ A **Social Security card** or **Medicare card** with your current name. (If the name on the Social Security card or Medicare card does not say your current name, additional documents must be presented to supply proof of your name change).
- ☐ A document showing proof of your residence, such as a recent **utility or cable bill**, a **property tax receipt**, or most recent **bank statement**, **voter ID card** etc. For applicants under the age of 21 who cannot provide proof of residence, a parent or legal guardian may provide such a document on behalf of the young person.
- ☐ **Payment.**

For more info, call 573-751-4600 or visit online at
www.dor.mo.gov/mvdl/drivers/idrequirements.htm



From left: Missouri Sen. Luann Ridgeway, Taipei City Council member Kuei-fong Ken Li, and Sen. Maida Coleman stand on the grounds of the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan.

Sen. Coleman Promotes Partnership With Taiwan

Because Missouri's agriculture sector is an anchor for the state's economy, a strong global trade industry is important for job growth, securing higher wages and increasing opportunities for Missouri farm families.

In September of 2005, Sen. Coleman met with members of the 2005 Taiwan Agricultural Trade Goodwill Mission to discuss ways in which trade can be enhanced between Missouri and Taiwan, which is more than 7,000 miles away. The representatives from Taiwan signed letters of intent to purchase 559 million bushels of wheat, soybeans and corn from the United States, including Missouri, in the next two years. This agreement makes Taiwan the sixth largest trading partner with the United States.

To promote further partnership between the Show-Me State and Taiwan, Sen. Coleman took part in the 2005 Midwest States Legislative Leaders' Delegation and traveled overseas to meet with Taiwanese leaders from various fields and visit governmental departments, legislatures and other important organizations.

To Contact Sen. Coleman:

My staff and I are available to answer your questions, listen to your ideas or concerns, set up Capitol tours for your group or provide you with educational material about the Missouri Senate.

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Meet the 5th Senate District Staff



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Relay For Life Raises Cancer Awareness

Do you know someone with cancer? Are you a cancer survivor? Do you want to help eliminate cancer? If so, Sen. Coleman invites you to join the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of St. Louis City in the summer of 2006.



Relay For Life is the signature event of the American Cancer Society. It is a fun-filled, overnight event that mobilizes communities throughout the country to celebrate survivors, remember loved ones, and raise money for the fight against cancer. Relay For Life raises awareness about the progress against cancer while also raising funds to fight the disease. Individuals who are willing to give their time and energy to this exciting event, as a volunteer or participant, have made a commitment to fight back against cancer and let the community know that cancer can be beat.

Teams of eight to 15 members gather with tents and sleeping bags to participate in the largest fund-raising walk in the nation. Relay For Life unites friends, families, businesses, hospitals, schools, and churches—people from all walks of life. Teams seek sponsorship prior to the relay, all with the goal of supporting a cure for cancer. Volunteers are needed to organize and recruit teams, seek community support, coordinate logistics, acquire refreshments and prizes, plan entertainment, and lend their support in any way. For more information about forming a team or volunteering, call April Gray at (314) 286-8187 or e-mail april.gray@cancer.org.

For more information on cancer, call the American Cancer Society's 24-hour help line at 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

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